

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 11-26 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 and the specification are amended. Claims 11-26 are newly added and are drawn to the elected method of making a coating on at least one face to be protected. Claims 5-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found at page 3, lines 12-17 of the specification, for example. Support for the amendment to Claim 4 is self-evident. Support for the amendments to the specification can be found at page 3, lines 12-17 of the original specification, for example. Support for newly added Claim 11 can be found in original Claim 1 and at page 5, line 36 – page 6, line 31 of the specification, for example. Support for newly added Claim 12 can be found at page 3, lines 12-17, for example. Support for newly added Claim 13 can be found at page 6, lines 32-37, for example. Support for newly added Claim 14 can be found at page 6, lines 11-13, for example. Support for newly added Claims 15 and 16 can be found in original Claim 2, for example. Support for newly added Claim 17 can be found at page 6, lines 18-21, for example. Support for newly added Claim 18 can be found at page 6, lines 6-10, for example. Support for newly added Claims 19 and 20 can be found at page 4, lines 19-21, for example. Support for newly added Claim 21 can be found at page 6, lines 18-21, for example. Support for newly added Claims 22-24 can be found at page 7, lines 28-35, for example. Support for newly added Claim 25 can be found at page 7, line 1, for example. Support for newly added Claim 26 can be found at page 7, lines 14-20, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Restriction Requirement dated June 2, 2006, was made Final. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35¹U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Rafferty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,523,169, herein "Rafferty"). Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mizuhara (U.S. Patent No. 5,577,655, herein "Mizuhara").

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesy of a telephone interview granted by Primary Examiner Jessica Ward to Applicant's representative on January 18, 2007. The substance of the interview is provided below in accordance with MPEP § 713.04.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-4 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the viscous material comprises a metallic brazing binder and a metal powder of a super alloy. The method recited in amended independent Claim 1 includes raising the assembly to a temperature higher than the melting point of the metallic brazing binder. Accordingly, as discussed in the interview, it is the metallic brazing binder that establishes a bond in this particular embodiment. Therefore, the metal powder is not required to melt in this particular embodiment. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent Claim 1 and Claims 2-4 depending therefrom as failing to comply with the enablement requirement is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-4 as indefinite, as discussed above and in the interview, the temperature is raised to a temperature higher than the melting point of the metallic brazing binder. Accordingly, the metal powder is not required to melt in this particular embodiment. Thus, a bond can be formed between the preform and the substrate by raising the assembly to a temperature that is lower than the melting point of the metal powder. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that, as discussed in the interview, the rejection of Claims 1-4 as indefinite is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-4 as anticipated by each of Rafferty and Mizuhara, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 recites providing a flexible sheet derived from at least one plate obtained by the technique of casting a strip by silk screen printing from a viscous material. As discussed in the interview, neither Rafferty nor Mizuhara teaches or suggests providing a flexible sheet via **silk screen printing**.

Rafferty describes at col. 4, lines 37-62, that the layers forming the sheets are formed by rolling between adjustable rollers a mixture of materials. Rafferty does not teach or suggest forming anything by silk screen printing.

Mizuhara describes, as shown in Fig. 1, spreading a mix (10) onto a continuous length of backing (12). The backing advances in the direction of arrow (14), causing casting mix (10) to contact the blade (16), which spreads the mix (10) along the backing (12). Mizuhara does not form a sheet by silk screen printing.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that, as discussed in the interview, amended independent Claim 1 and Claims 2-4 depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Newly added Claims 11-20 are drawn to the elected method of making a coating on at least one face to be protected. Newly added independent Claim 11 recites spreading a material on a grid so as to pass the material through the grid, thereby obtaining a plurality of plates.

As discussed above, Rafferty obtains sheets of material by spreading a mixture between rollers.

Mizuhara obtains a flexible metal tape by spreading a mixture along a backing material passed beneath a blade.

Neither Rafferty nor Mizuhara teaches or suggests spreading a material on a grid so as to pass the material through the grid to obtain a plurality of plates as recited in newly added

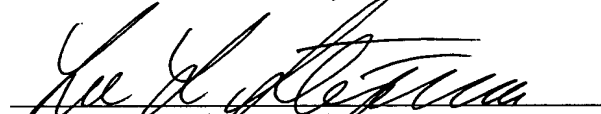
Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that newly added Claim 11 and Claims 12-20 depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Rafferty and Mizuhara taken alone or in any reasonable combination.

Newly added Claims 21-26 depend from amended independent Claim 1 and patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 1 does.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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